MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
AUG
#366
BEGINNING THIS ISSUE:
A BOLD NEW ERA IN DD's LIFE!
Featuring YOUR NEW GUIDE to the MARVEL UNIVERSE!
AND HE'S GOT NOTHING TO FEAR...
KELLY
COLAN
WILLIAMSON
DIRECT EDITION
36611
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...BUT FEAR HIMSELF!

NEW YORK CITY.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

"WALLS.

"SEPARATION. PROTECTION. CONFINEMENT.

"HERE, IN OUR... ESTEEMED INSTITUTION, WALLS ALLOW YOU THE FREEDOM TO PURSUE INTELLECTUAL ENDEAVORS...

"...WHILE PROTECTING YOU FROM THE FILTH, CRIME AND INEQUITIES OF THE CRUEL WORLD MERE FEET BEYOND.

"FOR THE PRIVILEGED, WALLS ARE A BLESSING... BUT IS THERE A COST?

"WHEN ONE INVERTS THE EQUATION, TAKES THE 'UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS' AND SURROUNDS THEM WITH WALLS...

"...ONE HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO A VERY DIFFERENT BEAST.

"ONE HAS DISCOVERED PRISON...

"...AND A NEW DEFINITION OF PUNISHMENT."

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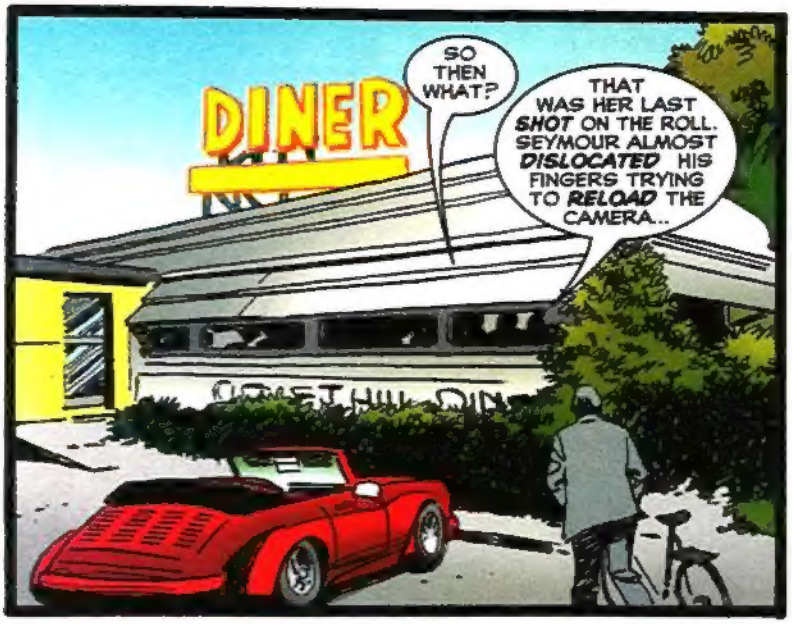
OSCAR WILDE WRITES, "THE VILEST DEEDS LIKE POISON WEEDS BLOOM WELL IN PRISON AIR..."
"...IT IS ONLY THAT WHAT IS GOOD IN MAN, THAT WASTES AND WITHERS THERE...
"...PALE ANGUISH KEEPS THE HEAVY GATE, AND THE WARDER IS DESPAIR."
FOR WILDE, PRISON IS NOT ABOUT REHABILITATION, AS THE LIBERAL ELITE WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE...
...BUT RATHER SIMPLE, RUTHLESS, BARBARIC DEHUMANIZATION.
THOUGHTS, CLASS?
ZZZZ
PERHAPS, Mr. STEADMAN HAS SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE...
FWIPP
ZZZNGURKP!
I -- OH MAN... I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR. LATE NIGHT IN THE LIBRARY... I --
MY HEART BLEEDS.
YOUR THOUGHTS ON PRISON, Mr. STEADMAN... NOW THAT THEY'VE BEEN JOSTLED LOOSE.
IT SEEMS SELF-EVIDENT TO ME, SIR, THAT PRISON SHOULD BE A MISERABLE PLACE. IF NOT, WHAT'S THE POINT?
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF REHABILITATION? HOW CAN ONE HOPE TO ENCOURAGE REBIRTH...
...IN A PLACE WHICH HASTENS THE DEATH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT?
WELL SIR... I KNOW IT'S NOT A POPULAR OPINION TODAY... BUT I'M NOT SURE THAT PRISON IS THE PLACE FOR REHABILITATION.
IT'S A PLACE TO PUNISH THE UNJUST, PURE AND SIMPLE, AND FEAR OF THAT PUNISHMENT SHOULD PROVE TO BE A DETERRENT.

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee Presents
PRISON WITHOUT WALLS
PUNISHMENT... PURE AND SIMPLE... COUPLED WITH FEAR...
...I DO BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE ON TO SOMETHING, Mr. STEADMAN.
JOE KELLY
WRITER
GENE COLAN
PENCILER
AL WILLIAMSON
INKER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE
COLORIST
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF
INMATES
JAYE GARDNER
JAILER
BOB HARRAS
WARDEN

UNLIKE MOST COMMUTERS, I USUALLY ENJOY THE MORNING RUSH IN NEW YORK CITY.
SWINGING HIGH OVER THE BUMPER-TO-BUMPER SOUP, JUST ABOVE THE PERPETUAL VEIL OF FUMES...
I'M TREATED TO A UNIQUE SERENADE OF SQUEALING HORNS, SCREECHING BRAKES AND WELL INTENDED SWEAR WORDS...
...WITH JUST A HINT OF HOWARD STERN RHAPSODIZING IN THE BACKGROUND. IN A TWISTED WAY, IT'S BEAUTIFUL... REALLY...
CITY TOURS 2
2 ON TOURS
...WELL, IT IS FROM TWENTY STORIES UP. AT GROUND LEVEL... THE WHOLE THING SORT OF LOSES ITS CHARM.
SHEE-OOT! WILL YOU LOOKIT THAT!
HURRY, BEFORE HE GITS A CRAMP AN' LEAVES...
I'M WAITIN' FOR THE FLASH, SEYMOUR!
I REALLY REALLY REALLY HOPE SPIDEY DOESN'T CATCH WIND OF THIS...
...IF HE DOES, I'LL NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT. BUS JOKES FOR MONTHS...
ALTHOUGH, I BET EVEN HE COULD APPRECIATE THE IRONY OF A BLIND GUY SURFING CROSS TOWN ON TOP OF A SIGHTSEEING BUS.
THEN AGAIN, IT'D PROBABLY GO OVER HIS WEBBED HEAD.
WAIT! LEMME GIT IN THERE WITH HIM! BOYS IN MY RIFLE CLUB'LL LOVE THIS!

BUT ALL KIDDING ASIDE, WHAT BETTER WAY IS THERE TO CROSS TOWN...
WHEN ONE FINDS ONE'S SELF MISSING ONE'S BILLY CLUB AND GRAPPLING LINE? Huh?
I MEAN, WE CAN'T ALL SHOOT WEBS LIKE SOME CRAWLING BUG --
COME ON! WHILE HE'S NOT LOOKIN'!
I'M GOING OUT ON A LIMB HERE...OUT-OF-TOWNERS, RIGHT?
LAN' SAKES! HE TALKS! SAY CHEESE, DEVIL-MAN!
VREET
Oh, COME ON! "CHEESE" IS SO, CLICHE!
NO, THAT WON'T DO AT ALL...TOO DERIVATIVE...
PERHAPS IN HONOR OF YOUR TRIP TO THE BIG APPLE, I SHOULD RATTLE OFF A BROADWAY SHOW TUNE?
I GOT HIM, SEYMOUR! I GOT A PICTURE OF DEVIL-MAN!
WOW...
HOW 'BOUT SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE APROPOS? SOMETHING LIKE...
"UP, UP, AND AWAY!"
WOW, INDEED, MISS... HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED A CAREER IN NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY..?


DINER
SO THEN WHAT?
THAT WAS HER LAST SHOT ON THE ROLL. SEYMOUR ALMOST DISLOCATED HIS FINGERS TRYING TO RELOAD THE CAMERA...

I SAID I COULDN'T HANG AROUND, BUT I GAVE HER A LITTLE PECK ON THE CHEEK TO REMEMBER ME BY.
SEYMOUR WAS FURIOUS.
Oh, YOU'RE BAD, MURDOCK... HOMEWRECKING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING. I'M APPALLED.

APPALLED? SURE YOU DON'T MEAN JEALOUS, KAREN?
HA! SOME MIDWESTERN MAVEN WANTS DAREDEVIL...
...SHE CAN HAVE HIM, HIS BRUISES, AND HIS SMELLY RED LONG-JOHNS!

SO LONG AS SHE KEEPS HER MITTS OFF OF MY LAWYER.
SEE, IT SAYS RIGHT HERE, PROPERTY OF KAREN PAGE. SO THERE.
I WONDER IF THAT'S A LEGALLY BINDING DOCUMENT...
Oh, YOU --
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, HERE COMES BREAKFAST.

SHOWOFF. SHE WASN'T EVEN OUT OF THE KITCHEN YET. HOW COULD YOU TELL THAT WAS OUR FOOD?
EVEN WITHOUT HYPER-SENSES, THE SMELL OF A JELLY AND PEPPER OMELET IS TOUGH TO MISS... YECHH

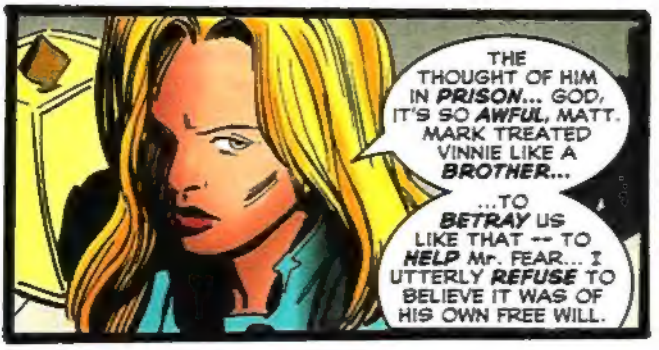
YOU KNOW WHAT I SAY, COUNSELOR, DON'T KNOCK IT TILL YOU'VE FRIED IT.
SO, ENOUGH ABOUT MY ALTER EGO... HOW ABOUT YOURS?

PAIGE ANGEL? WELL, LAST NIGHT SHE FLUBBED A MONOLOGUE, LOST THREE CALLERS, AND ACCIDENTALLY INSULTED THE MAYOR...
IT WAS ROUGH, MATT, WALKING BACK INTO THE STUDIO, SO SOON AFTER THE WHOLE INSOMNIA THING...
TO BE HONEST: I WAS CONSIDERING GIVING PAIGE ANGEL A PERMANENT VACATION...
BUT THEN I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD SAY...THAT I CAN'T LET MY LIFE BE RULED BY FEAR.
FEAR... I'M SURE NOW THAT Mr. FEAR WAS BEHIND THE PSYCHO WHO ATTACKED KAREN... THE THEFT AT OSBORN CLINCHED IT.
BUT DOES THAT MEAN THAT HE TARGETED KAREN TO GET TO ME? DOES HE KNOW HER RELATIONSHIP TO DAREDEVIL?
BEST NOT TO SAY ANYTHING UNTIL I KNOW FOR SURE...
THAT'S MY BRAVE, BRAVE GIRL.
I BET YOU COULD TEACH EVEN A "MAN WITHOUT FEAR" A THING OR TWO...
SMEAK
HMM. HURRY UP AND PAY FOR BREAKFAST, AND MAYBE WE CAN FIT A LESSON IN BEFORE WORK...
MEANWHILE, A WORLD AWAY... IN THE EAST RIVER...
BEHIND SOME VERY SERIOUS WALLS...

ALL IS QUIET ON RIKER'S ISLAND.
THIS IS NOT A GOOD THING.
YES, THERE IS STILL NOISE. FOOTSTEPS ECHO... THE PHYSICAL PLANT STILL HUMS...
...AND THERE IS A SENSE OF BREATHING, LIKE WHITE NOISE IN THE BACKGROUND, A CONTINUOUS MURMUR...
BUT NO ONE REALLY SPEAKS. YELLS. FIGHTS.
THE AIR IS THICK WITH SILENCE, AND THE OLD-TIMERS... THEY KNOW BEST...
...THAT SILENCE MEANS THOUGHT.
BLOCK 7
THOUGHT MEANS PLANNING...
...AND HERE, IN A PLACE WHERE DESPERATION GIVES BIRTH TO MOTIVATION...
...PLANS MEAN VICTIMS.
Please Deliver To Mathew Murdock Lawyer URGENT
BLOCK

MEANWHILE, AS RAIN BEGINS TO FALL OUTSIDE OF THE SWANKY MIDTOWN LAW OFFICES OF SHARPE, NELSON, AND MURDOCK...
LEGALLY SPEAKING, THIS IS A 'CLASS A' BAD SITUATION, ISN'T IT, MATT?
THAT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, LIZ. ON THE ONE HAND...
...WE HAVE VINCENT GRAZIA, EX-CON, WHO CONFESSES TO ATTACKING A ROOM FULL OF EXECUTIVES WITH FEAR GAS...

...IN ORDER TO SEND YOUR STEP-BROTHER, THE MOLTEN MAN, INTO A POTENTIALLY LETHAL RAGE...
...SO THAT Mr. FEAR CAN ABSCOND WITH A TRUCKLOAD OF OSBORN CHEMICALS, UNHAMPERED. ALL BAD.
ON THE OTHER HAND... I'M VINNIE'S LAWYER.
THAT ADDS UP TO MORE LIKE A 'CLASS B-MINUS' BAD SITUATION.


THE THOUGHT OF HIM IN PRISON... GOD, IT'S SO AWFUL, MATT. MARK TREATED VINNIE LIKE A BROTHER...
...TO BETRAY US LIKE THAT -- TO HELP Mr. FEAR... I UTTERLY REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT WAS OF HIS OWN FREE WILL.

LIZ, FEAR HAS MADE A CAREER OF MANIPULATING POOR KIDS LIKE VINNIE, BUT HIS HOOKS ONLY REACH SO FAR.
I PROMISE YOU THAT IF THERE'S A WAY TO GET THROUGH TO VINNIE AND DRAW THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM...

...I AM NOT GOING TO REST UNTIL I FIND IT.
THANK YOU, MATT... I KNOW YOU'LL CLEAR HIS NAME...

HEY, MATT! CHECK OUT WHAT I JUST TAUGHT DEUCE TO DO!
COME ON, BOY! SHOW UNCLE MATT THE STUPID PET TRICK --
HURFF
FOGGY?
OH, BOY. HI, LIZ ..
THIS Uh.. ISN'T THE ONLY THING I DID TODAY HONEST...
.. SO, YOU STILL THINK I'M A BIG FAT JERK OR WHAT?
EVER THE STATESMAN, FOGGY NELSON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
...LIZ. I'LL CALL YOU FROM RIKERS. GOOD LUCK, YOU TWO.
Um.. SO YOU SEE "THE PRACTICE" THIS WEEK?
FOGGY NELSON. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU --
YOU ARE ONE OF THE MOST CONSIDERATE, EXTRAORDINARY MEN I HAVE EVER MET!
I AM.? SINCE WHEN?
SINCE YOU SENT DAREDEVIL OVER TO MY BROTHER'S MEETING AND HELPED SAVE THE DAY.
SMEK
I DID? EXCELLENT.

THE WHOLE PLACE MAKES ME SICK .
I WANT TO HELP YOU.
NOTHING NOT A TWITCH
VINNIE'S HEARTBEAT IS ERRATIC, AND HIS SWEAT CARRIES A TRACE OF AMMONIA...
. HIS BODY IS REJECTING SOMETHING THROUGH THE SKIN... THE REMNANTS OF FEAR GAS.
..HAVE TO GET THROUGH TO HIM SOMEHOW ..
...VINNIE, I'M HERE TO HELP YOU VINNIE...
. .YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER MISS YOU.
M-MY WIFE? I --
-- I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY

I CAN'T HAVE A FAMILY.. I DON'T DESERVE ONE... ;GASP! Oh GOD
A-ALL I HAVE... M-MEANS NOTHING. N-NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH... YES YES I'LL BE GOOD
HIS VOICE.. SO DISTANT... ALMOST AS IF HE'S NOT SPEAKING TO ME... HIS PULSE JUST SPED UP... SHALLOW BREATHING... COULD HE BE HALLUCINATING?
THE T-TRUTH... THAT .T-THAT Mr. FEAR PAID ME TO DO WHAT I DID I W-WORK FOR FEAR.
THEY MISS YOU, VINNIE. THEY WANT YOU TO COME HOME.
THAT'S NOT TRUE, VINNIE WE BOTH KNOW --
FEAR IS GOD.
VINCENT! IF YOU WORK WITH ME, I CAN PROTECT ALL THREE OF YOU --
FEAR CONTROLS EVERYTHING KNOWS EVERYTHING HEARS EVERYTHING
FEAR IS GOD. I SERVE HIM.. FOREVER

PLEASE. . LET ME BE... I DON'T WANT TO *TALK*...
HE'S SO FAR GONE .. BLAST YOU, FEAR... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?!
SORRY T'INTERRUPT DUE PROCESS, COUNSELOR. . BUT DIS JUST CAME FOR YOU...
URGENT. FROM YOUR *FIRM*.
THIS PACKAGE... THE WEIGHT . THE SHAPE . IT CAN'T BE!
HE'S GOD HE CAN DO ANYTHING GO ANYWHERE HE KNOWS EVERY-THING
IT'S MY *BILLY CLUB!*
INSOMNIA STOLE IT FROM *DAREDEVIL* WHEN WE FOUGHT! BUT IF SOMEONE SENT IT TO *MATT MURDOCK*, THAT MEANS --
FEAR KNOWS *EVERY-THING*.
EEEEOOO EEOOO
WHAT'S THAT?
HE'S *HERE*.

IN AN INSTANT...
..THE DAY'S SILENCE...
..IS PAINFULLY. .
.DEFINITIVELY
...BROKEN.
RIOT.

IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE, CONTROL?!
IT'S LIKE ALL OF THE CELL-LOCKS WERE DISENGAGED AT ONCE!
OF COURSE THEY WERE.
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENS MIRACULOUSLY?
HA HA HA
WHO IS THAT! WHERE — NO! NOOO!
...
NERVOUS YET MURDOCK?
YES. I CAN FEEL IT, BEHIND THE CONSERVATIVE MASK, YOU TREMBLE...
YOU KNOW I COME HERE FOR YOU... BUT STEW A FEW MOMENTS MORE...
WHILE I ATTEND TO OTHER MATTERS OF SURVEILLANCE
AND AFFAIRS OF TERROR!

DEEP IN AN ALL BUT FORGOTTEN SUB-BASEMENT OF RIKERS. ISOLATED FROM THE MELEE ABOVE..
HEAR THAT?
YUP. RIOT.
SHOULD WE GO HELP?
NOPE. ORDERS
RIGHT ORDERS.. DARN.
RATHER BE IN THE MIDDLE OF A RIOT INSTEAD OF GUARDING THIS ONE.
YOU SAID IT, BROTHER.. YOU SAID IT.
MEANWHILE, TOPSIDE..
LISTEN, GENTLEMEN DRINK IN THE CACOPHONY OF CHAOS.. ADRENALINE.. DEATH!
BUT ALAS THERE IS NO CONTROL HERE NO ART TO THE PIECE

LET US BRING MUSIC TO THE SAVAGES.. GENTLEMEN?
"FOR MONTHS I'VE WADED THROUGH BOTCHED ATTEMPTS TO SECURE THESE LETHAL COMPONENTS, AND FINALLY, THE TIME IS AT HAND..
FWOOSH
"TO UNLEASH ENOUGH MIND-DISTORTING FEAR GAS TO PUT AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY UNDER MY THRALL!
COME TO ME, MY BRASH AND BRAZEN CHILDREN!
FIND ME YOUR NEW LIFE YOUR NEW GOD!
FIND Mr. FEAR! AND DO MY BIDDING!

WHAT'S THE PROCEDURE, OFFICER --
WE'LL J-JUST STAY HERE, Mr. MURDOCK, WHERE IT'S SAFE...
...I'M A YEAR AWAY FROM MY PENSION WE'LL JUST WAIT THIS OUT
THIS IS NO GOOD. I NEED TO CHANGE TO DO AND SEE HOW I CAN HELP.
...BUT BETWEEN THE GUARD AND VINNIE...
SORRY OLD CHAP .. TIME FOR A NAPPIE...
...JUST A TAP TO THE CAROTID ARTERY TO TEMPORARILY INTERRUPT BLOOD FLOW TO THE BRAIN...
UHGHH!
...HE'LL THINK HE PASSED OUT FROM THE STRESS...
...HE'S STRONG, NO HARM DONE. SECRET IDENTITY INTACT. AND VINNIE...
...HE'S TOO WHACKED OUT TO EVEN REALIZE I'M GONE. I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU, PAL...
...FIRST TO SLIP OUT OF THE MONKEY SUIT... Uh-oh. THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.
THE LAWYER/ THAT'S THE ONE OUR MASTER WANTS/ GET HIM/
GIVEN THE INFO I GATHER THROUGH MY RADAR SENSE, I FIGURE THESE GUYS AREN'T FROM THE BAR ASSOCIATION...

HAS A CERTAIN SOMEONE ENGINEERED THIS WHOLE RIOT JUST TO GET LITTLE OLD ME --?
HUURFF
WHOA/ JUST CAUGHT A WHIFF OF THIS ONE'S BREATH. IT'S REPLETE WITH FEAR GAS.
THEIR HEARTBEATS ARE ERRATIC. MISFIRING. CLEARLY NOT THINKING STRAIGHT.
NO NEED TO BE SUBTLE. THEY PROBABLY DON'T EVEN REALIZE I'M BLIND!
SO MANY OF THEM/ EVEN IF I CAN TAKE THESE TEN --

-- THERE'S A WHOLE PRISON OF GASSED UP INMATES LEFT! NOT TO MENTION FEAR HIMSELF!
HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO --
ONE OF THE INMATES SLIPPED BY ME! WHAT'S HE --
STOP!
DAT'S ENOUGH WALK. SLOW LIKE OR YOU LOSE A CLIENT.
I COULD PROBABLY KNOCK THE GUARD'S GUN OUT OF HIS HAND, BUT HIGH ON FEAR GAS, THESE MEN ARE SO UNPREDICTABLE. .
FINE. TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER.
DO YOU HEAR ME?
YES... YES... Oh, GOD. .
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
YOU! GOD PLEASE. I CAN'T STAND TO LOOK AT YOU!
VERY WELL. THEN IF MY VISAGE SENDS SUCH CHILLS DOWN YOUR SPINE
THEN PERHAPS WE SHOULD MAKE IT GO AWAY. PERMANENTLY.
MAKE IT GO AWAY. . YES. DO IT... ANYTHING.
MASTER!

Mr. MURDOCK... WELCOME! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO KILL SOME... TIME... UNTIL YOUR ARRIVAL...
BUT THE GUEST OF HONOR HAS ARRIVED... THE FESTIVITIES CAN BEGIN!
Ah! A LAST SCOWL OF DEFIANCE! PRECIOUS!
BETWEEN US, DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE SECRET, Mr. MURDOCK.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR CRIMSON COUNTERPART... I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN YOU... THE MAN...
NOW, YOU REALLY SHOULD BREATHE, BEFORE YOU PASS OUT...
GASP!
A LACKLUSTER GAMBIT, MURDOCK. WHY WOULD YOU FORESTALL YOUR LAST GASP OF FREEDOM?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT DOES ANY WARDEN WANT? JUSTICE... THROUGH PUNISHMENT!
YOU, SIR, ARE A HYPOCRITE! EVERY TIME YOU DARE TO PLAY AS A MAN WITHOUT FEAR...
YOU BLATANTLY DISREGARD THE LAW YOU SO PIOUSLY CLAIM TO UPHOLD! FOR THAT, YOU MUST BE PUNISHED!
THE GAS... SOMEHOW DIFFERENT... AFFECTING ME SO QUICKLY...
ALL OF THIS... STEALING THE CHEMICALS, FRAMING VINNIE... THIS IS ABOUT ME?
YES, MURDOCK! I KNEW YOU COULDN'T RESIST THE CHANCE TO PLAY THE SAVIOR TO A POOR MISUNDERSTOOD EX-CON.
I THOUGHT IT FITTING FOR YOU TO FACE JUDGMENT HERE, WHERE YOU HAVE SENT SO MANY TO ROT... SO MANY LIKE YOU!
WHO ARE YOU?
SOMEONE YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE TRIFLED WITH... HYPOCRITE. I AM YOUR JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER.

"ACTUALLY I LIED... THIS IS YOUR EXECUTIONER!
"GLADIATOR! THE ACCUSED HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY! THE SENTENCE... SLOW... AGONIZING... DEATH!"
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

Devil's Advocate,

I swear I had planned to stop reading DAREDEVIL with the untimely departure of Karl Kesel, but I was persuaded by a few more open-minded friends to give Joe Kelly a chance—and it was a darn good issue.

I want to say that theKesel/Nord/Ryan team had a great rapport and produced some great comics. They created something special in this non-mutant corner of the Marvel Universe. I am sad it's over, but it is truly hard to stay saddened knowing that one of Marvel's all-time greatest artists is returning to the book that he made something very special back when I was but a lad. The legendary Gene Colan is back on the book he was born to draw!! There is no way I can give this book up now. Gene Colan's mighty talent is sure to allow DAREDEVIL to continue as Marvel's premiere book.

As for DD #365 itself, I thought Raxton, Vin, Liz...well, the whole cast was handled quite well. My fears about this becoming another slugfest title were assuaged by Joe Kelly's continuation of the delicate characterization of the book's well-defined cast. Speaking of fear, Mr. Fear's slowly developing plot is a nice touch. It's good to see villains planning and weaving a web around the heroes. Mr. Fear seems to be the sort who would never strike until absolutely certain of victory. Besides he is too good a villain to waste on a one shot punch-out.

The fear gas was used nicely as a plot device. I liked how each person's fear caused them to behave differently and as such we were able to discover a little more about each character. Matt Murdock is not truly a man without fear as the title has claimed for so many years, but he a man whom fear does not stop.

I am really pulling for Raxton. I don't want to see another reformed villain go bad. It sends a bad message to the readers if every repentant villain returns to his evil ways. Can there be no reformation? Can people never truly change? Raxton has paid his dues, let's give him a break. Allow him to join that short list of super-villains who have actually managed to go straight.

Michael C. McClelland
1324 N. Hollywood Way
Burbank, CA 91505

Well, Michael, it's really going to be up to Mark Raxton if he stays straight. But it seems like he's doing a good job. Let's just hope the fear gas doesn't have any lingering effects...

Dear Devils,

Initial reaction to seeing DD #365 on the racks: "Oh, YEAH! It's that time again!" Three rapturous seconds later: "Oh, whoops, that DEADPOOL guy took over poor ol' Matt. Like I need this today." Circa page seven, the location caption box: "The warm and fuzzy law offices of Sharpe, Nelson and Murdock?!" I'm sold!

And I even take back the DEADPOOL crack—I'm not into the character, but he is pretty funny. But you, Mr. Kelly, are unquestionably, uproariously hilarious! I lost it when Daredevil remembered he left Matt Murdock's shoes in the closet. I had to chew on my pillow so Mom wouldn't know I was reading comics when I should have been asleep (What, you mean she never read DAREDEVIL at 11:00 o'clock at night?).

Now as to your letter page bombshells: Gene Colan back in harness? Well...Okay. Don't get me wrong, Gene is the artist for DD, but I kinda liked Cary. Well, welcome aboard. And Joe is gonna bring back the "edge"? Not so good. What's wrong with a funny hero? Wisecracks are an acceptable way of dealing with stress—something DD is certainly under. And hasn't he spent enough time depressing readers? I hearby found the Committee to Make Daredevil Funny and Lynch All His Doom and Gloom Fans! Hmm, the name needs work...

DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL '97 sounds interesting, but I warn you, if anything happens to that dog...

Last note: My dog, also named Deuce (pure coincidence, I think) wants to know if her comic book counterpart has a steady girl. She says she's single and goes for active types. Please give me an excuse to make her give me back my DAREDEVIL collection—preferably unshredded!

Yours until Matt Murdock goes to Lenscrafters...

Bek Hendershot
1201 N. Concord Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92831

Nothing's wrong with a funny hero, Bek. It's just that Matt's had a pretty rough life (it's one of his trademarks!) up until now and it's pretty hard to keep that stuff behind you. Joe is going to keep a wisecracking DD around. It's just, at times, the book will get a little darker. Just think of how much funnier the jokes will seem after a little gloom and doom!

Dear Editor,

I am writing to let you know that I have not enjoyed reading DAREDEVIL this much in years. I have every issue of DAREDEVIL and this title has almost always been an entertaining and very well executed title. There have even been moments of sheer brilliance.

And issue #365 was just that: Brilliant! Joe Kelly's script was superbly crafted with humor, suspense, drama...all the elements. Cary Nord's art was great. He will be missed. It seems as if he was just really finding out how to illustrate this title. His last two issues were fantastic. The editing, inking and coloring were also superb.

However, I can't think of anyone else I'd rather have pencil DAREDEVIL than Mr. Gene Colan. His fill-in issue a couple back showed he is still a wonderful artist. If anyone knows how to draw DD, it's Gene Colan.

Again, congratulations on a most enjoyable title that is definitely a "fun" read. I can't tell you how good it feels to look forward to next month's issue.

David Luhn
Fayetteville, AR 72703

Glad to have you aboard, David. Gene is here and now that you've finally seen the issue, what do you think? Write in and let us know!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE c/o MARVEL COMICS
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(MARK E-MAIL "OKAY TO PRINT")

IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR FULL NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

NEXT ISSUE:

IT'S ALL OUT ACTION WHEN DAREDEVIL TAKES ON THE GLADIATOR. HOW WILL MATT OVERCOME THE DEBILITATING EFFECTS OF THE FEAR GAS AND BEAT THIS FEARSOME FOE, YOU ASK? BE HERE IN THIRTY AND FIND OUT!

DESIGN BY COMICRAFT

BEAST CHARMING
Perenially purveying a plenitude of purty, prettified pictures to my peerless pals!
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